of persons acquitted during the past three years in smuggling cases is given in the table below:—

	1986	1987	1988
(i)Number of persons arrested •	2900	2480	3253'
(ii)Number of personss prosecuted.	2587	2531	2231*
(iii) Number of persons convicted.	871	744	750*
(jv)Number of persons acquitted.	235	300	243*

* The figures are provisional

** The figures under these rows include convictions, acquittal of persons arrested in previous years.

Cases pending before the Customs and Central Excise authorities

254. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of investigations and prosecutions pending with the Customs and Central Excise authorities against big business houses as on 31st January,, 1989;

(b) what is the number of such cases which have been dropped or withdrawn as on date;

(c) whether Government have issued any directive to the Customs and Central Excise in this regard; and

(d) if so, to what effect and under which provisions of law?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT. OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (d) The number of show cause notices and prosecutions pending as on 31.1.1989 against companies registered under section 26 of the M.R.T.P. Act, 1969 and belonging to the top'20 business houses ranked according to their assets for the year 1986-87, is given below:—

Department	No. of show cause notice! pending as on 31.1.1989.	No. of prosecutions Pendings as on 31.1.1989
CENTRAL EXCISE	2124	10
CUSTOMS	6	NIL

The number of show cause notices which have been dropped or withdrawn against the above business houses during the period 1.4.1988 to 31.1.1989 is ; —

CENTRAL EXCISE	445
CUSTOMS	

No prosecutions against the above business houses have been dropped or withdrawn during the period 1.4.1988 to 31.1.1989.

The Government have not issued any directives to the Customs and Central Excise authorities for either dropping or withdrawing any investigation, show cause notice or prosecution against the above business houses.

Mobilisation of resources by the nationalised banks

255. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the first five-leading nationalised banks which have mobilised maximum deposits in the calendar year 1988;

(b) what are the names of the first five nationalised banks which top in lendings in the calendar year 1988; and

(c) what are the names of the first five nationalised bank which top in the net earnings or profits in the calendar year 1988?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FI NANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) As per informa tion available from Reserve Bank of. lndia, following public sector banks were leading in mobilisation of deposits, out standing advances & published profits:—

Aggregate Deposits (As at the end of Dec. 1988)

State Bank of India
Punjab National bank
Central Bank of India
Bank of India Canara Bank

Outstanding Advances

State Bank of India
Punjab National Bank
Canara Bank Bank of India Central Bank of India

Published Profit (As an Dec. 1987) State Bank of India Canara Bank Punjab National Bank Bank of Baroda Union Bank of India

Increase in the price of cotton yarn supplied to handloom weavers

256. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minsiter of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage increase of cotton yarn prices supplied to the handloom weavers during the past five years;

(b) whether Government are aware that in Tamil Nadu a sizeable number of handloom weavers have been thrown out of employment because of the steep rise in handloom cotton yarn; and

(c) what measures have been taken by the Ministry to make available cotton yarn at a reasonable price to the handloom weavers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM) (a) to (c) There has been an increase in the price of cotton hank yarn, the principal raw material used in the handloom sector, largely on account of increase in the price of cotton. The average percentage increase in the price of cotton hank yarn in December, 1988 over the price reported in December, 1984 is about 36 percent. Handloom weavers in in the country, including those in Tamilnadu, have been facing some hardship on account of the increase in price of yarn.

In order to safeguard the interest of the decentralised handloom sector,, Government have taken the following steps to check the recent rise in prices of yarns:—

(i) (i) export of staple cotton has been suspended;
(ii) export of hank yarn upto 60s counts has been suspended;
(iii) import of cotton against export of cotton yarn/cotton fabrics and made-ups on advance licence basis has been permitted;
(iv) import of one lakh bales of cotton, duty free, for production of hank yarn for supply to handloom sector has been permitted; and
(.v) the rate of subsidy on Janta cloth has been increased from 2.00 per square metre to Rs. 2.75 per square metre w.e.f. 1.3.1988.